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Dept has been considering best means for dealing with identical Soviet notes sent all NATO countries December 13. We see certain advantages in full reply, refuting charges that NATO is aggressive organization and stating US position on Soviet proposals in latter part of note. On other hand recognize that, if US gives full reply, other NATO countries would probably also wish respond. In this case, would be important that all replies be as consistent as possible. NAC consultation would be logical mechanism for accomplishing this. Coordination of replies might, however, prove difficult since some countries would probably not RPT not be willing to adopt same position as US on certain subjects, such as European security. Soviet note also is deliberately aimed at number of sensitive individual country problems which would make NAC coordination of replies more difficult.

Our present view is therefore that would be best to avoid giving any reply to Soviet notes. We believe that NAC should be informed of US views, basing our argument on fact that Soviet note appears to have been intended

for immediate

Drafted by: EUR/RA:RFessenden:mck 12/23/58

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for immediate propaganda purposes in unsuccessful effort to influence NATO meeting and that proposals contained in latter part of note do not RPT not represent anything new.

Would appreciate USRO and Embassy Moscow comments on above, plus any indications USRO may have received of attitudes other NATO countries on handling Soviet note.

Heintz
Acting
LSM

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